

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## IRON ORE IN DECEMBER 2002

U.S. mine production of iron ore in December 2002, on a daily average basis, was 4% lower than that of the prior month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Shipments increased by 9%. Mine stocks at the end of the month were 10% lower than at the end of the previous month. Consumption and trade data for December 2002 will be included in a subsequent issue.

**Note**

All data in this report have been rounded to no more than three significant digits. Totals and percentages were calculated by using unrounded data.

**Notice**

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will no longer print paper copies of the *Mineral Industry Surveys* for mailing list distribution after release of the December 2002 report. The report will continue to be available on the USGS Web site at URL <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>.

If you would like to receive e-mail notification for future issues of the *Mineral Industry Surveys*, instructions are provided at <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/listservices.html>.

TABLE 1  
U.S. PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE 1/ 2/  
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more of manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production		Shipments	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
2001:				
December	2,760	46,100	3,740	51,400
2002:				
January	3,700	3,700	2,530	2,530
February	3,200	6,890	1,360	3,890
March	3,660	10,600	2,200	6,090
April	3,840	14,400	4,360	10,400
May	4,850	19,200	5,320	15,800
June	4,870	24,100	5,810	21,600
July	4,430	28,500	5,720	27,300
August	4,580	33,100	5,530	32,800
September	4,270	37,400	4,910	37,700
October	4,650	42,000	4,790	42,500
November	4,740	46,800	4,480	47,000
December	4,700	51,500	5,040	52,000

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

2/ Excludes byproduct ores.

TABLE 2  
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE IN DECEMBER 1/ 2/

(Thousand metric tons)

District	Production		Shipments 3/		Stocks 4/	
	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001
Lake Superior:						
Michigan	1180	393	1510	1270	1020	1580
Minnesota	3,520	2,370	3,530	2,470	2,190	2,220
Total	4,700	2,760	5,040	3,740	3,210	3,800

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Excludes byproduct ore.

3/ Includes rail and vessel.

4/ Includes mines, plants, and loading docks.

TABLE 3  
CANADA: SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE 1/

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland	Quebec	British Columbia	
			Total	
2001:				
November	1,670	1,140	6	2,810
December	1,390	756	5	2,150
Year total	17,300	9,560	72	27,000
2002:				
January	782	630	10	1,420
February	355	699	10	1,060
March	1,060	771	5	1,840
April	1,490	913	9	2,410
May	2,390	1,240	8	3,630
June	1,530	828	6	2,370
July	2,290	1,020	7	3,320
August	1,770	940	9	2,720
September	1,970	1,250	7	3,220
October	2,040	1,180	8	3,220
November	2,100	1,390	7	3,500

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Natural Resources Canada.

TABLE 4  
CONSUMPTION AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE AND  
BLAST FURNACE PRODUCTION OF HOT METAL AT U.S. IRON AND STEEL PLANTS 1/ 2/

(Thousand metric tons)

Consumption by source	Consumption of ores and agglomerates			
	November		January-November	
	2002	2001	2002	2001
United States ores	3,640	3,610	43,200	48,100
Canadian ores	450	235	4,020	3,890
Foreign ores	697	404	6,730	5,870
Total	4,780	4,250	54,000	57,900
Consumption by process				
Blast furnaces	4,270	3,990	48,500	53,600
Steel furnaces	38	3	260	31
Agglomerating plants 3/	473	253	5,150	4,220
Miscellaneous 4/	--	--	2	--
Total	4,780	4,250	54,000	57,900
	Stocks of ores and agglomerates,			
Storage point	November 30			
	2002	2001		
Furnace yards	11,600	12,400		
Receiving/transfer docks	1,550	1,520		
Total consumer	13,200	13,900		
	Blast furnace production of hot metal			
	November		January-November	
	2002	2001	2002	2001
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	3,370	2,910	36,900	39,400
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	31	29	XX	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes agglomerates.

3/ Iron ore and iron ore concentrates consumed in agglomerating plants not located at the mine or plant site.

4/ Sold to nonreporting companies or used for purposes not listed.

Sources: American Iron Ore Association (consumption of iron ore) and American Iron and Steel Institute (production of hot metal and pig iron).

TABLE 5  
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON ORE, BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION AND TYPE 1/ 2/

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination and type	2002				
	1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	October	November
Canada	738	2,050	2,440	347	450
Mexico	(3/)	10	29	5	2
Other	1	2	5	(3/)	1
Total	739	2,060	2,480	353	452
Pellets	736	2,020	2,390	338	448
Other	3	36	83	15	4
Total	739	2,060	2,480	353	452

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes agglomerates.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE, BY COUNTRY AND TYPE 1/ 2/  
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Country of origin and type of product	2002					2001
	November		Year to date			January-November
	Thousand metric tons	Value 3/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 3/ (thousand dollars)	Value 3/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Australia	67	524	507	4,870	9.60	509
Brazil	601	14,000	5,210	122,000	23.32	3,890
Canada	431	11,500	4,770	136,000	28.45	4,240
Chile	--	--	275	5,810	21.13	596
Norway	--	--	15	322	21.07	26
Peru	16	235	86	1,090	12.77	71
Sweden	--	--	44	1,040	24.00	70
Other	--	--	121	5,330	43.99	410
Total	1,120	26,300	11,000	276,000	25.00 4/	9,810
Concentrates	--	--	387	8,740	22.58	482
Coarse ores	--	--	3	104	37.00	28
Fine ores	359	5,390	3,170	50,400	15.91	3,910
Pellets	756	20,900	7,100	208,000	29.22	5,000
Briquets	--	--	39	3,120	81.00	65
Other agglomerates	--	--	321	5,600	17.41	324
Roasted pyrites	--	--	12	361	31.26	7
Total	1,120	26,300	11,000	276,000	25.00 4/	9,810

-- Zero.

1/ Data, with the exception of the dollars per ton column, are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes agglomerates.

3/ Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges.

4/ Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE IN NOVEMBER 2002 1/ 2/  
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of origin	Type of product						Total
	Concentrates	Coarse ores	Fine ores	Pellets	Briquettes and other agglomerates	Roasted pyrites	
Brazil	--	--	247	354	--	--	601
Canada	--	--	29	402	--	--	431
Other	--	--	83	--	--	--	83
Total	--	--	359	756	--	--	1,120

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes agglomerates.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY COUNTRY 1/

Country of origin	2002					2001
	November		Year to date			January-November
	Thousand metric tons	Value 2/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 2/ (thousand dollars)	Value 2/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Brazil	354	9,830	2,800	79,800	28.50	1,080
Canada	402	11,000	4,300	128,000	29.68	3,590
Other	--	--	--	--	--	334
Total	756	20,900	7,100	208,000	29.22 3/	5,000

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges.

3/ Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 9  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE,  
BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT 1/ 2/  
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	November	January-November	
	2002	2002	2001
Baltimore, MD (13)	278	3,950	3,510
Buffalo, NY (09)	1	7	--
Charleston, SC (16)	--	235	68
Chicago, IL (39)	170	815	1,220
Cleveland, OH (41)	153	1,290	530
Columbia - Snake, OR (29)	--	28	--
Detroit, MI (38)	23	280	905
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	13	40	82
Laredo, TX (23)	13	24	17
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	(3/)	1
Miami, FL (52)	--	4	--
Mobile, AL (19)	240	1,030	673
New Orleans, LA (20)	224	3,280	2,540
New York City, NY (10)	--	--	(3/)
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	7	80
Providence, RI (05)	--	34	--
San Diego, CA (25)	--	--	7
San Juan, PR (49)	--	10	--
Savannah, GA (17)	--	--	24
Tampa, FL (18)	--	10	154
Total	1,120	11,000	9,810

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes agglomerates.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 10  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS,  
BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	November	January-November	
	2002	2002	2001
Baltimore, MD (13)	72	1,600	1,290
Charleston, SC (16)	--	235	28
Chicago, IL (39)	35	201	773
Cleveland, OH (41)	153	1,290	530
Detroit, MI (38)	23	257	905
Houston-Galveston, TX (53)	13	29	50
Laredo, TX (23)	13	24	17
Mobile, AL (19)	240	960	370
New Orleans, LA (20)	208	2,510	1,010
Savannah, GA (17)	--	--	24
Total	756	7,100	5,000

--Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.